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Executive Secretary

81-2544/2

7 OCT 1981

NOTE FOR: DCI

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FROM: Leslie C. Dirks
DDS&T

SUBJECT: Security Processing of Panelists

REF: NFAC 5820-81/1 dated 21 September 1981

1. In general I subscribe to John McMahon's memo (reference) which expresses support for the polygraph idea but concern about the problems which may result if CIA is unique in the intelligence community in its application of polygraph to panelists and consultants. However, it seems extremely unlikely that the community can be persuaded to use the polygraph with their consultants. As you know, even though CIA now uses polygraphing at certain contractor personnel, we have been completely unsuccessful in causing other agencies to follow suite.

2. Nonetheless I don't believe the larger community issue should deter the CIA. The polygraph is an extremely useful tool when properly used. The S&T over time has in fact briefed panels like the STAP and other panels on extremely sensitive matters, and also used individual members of the STAP as consultants on sensitive programs. This has been useful and beneficial and contributed to the success of some of our activities. I would feel more comfortable from a security standpoint if these senior external panelists and consultants were in fact polygraphed. There may be one or two who will refuse to take the polygraph and therefore we run the risk of losing their services. However, on balance I think we should proceed with a carefully planned and executed program to polygraph panelists and consultants.



Les Dirks

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